

CHRISTMAS BABY

by ROBYN BERDINO

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: Four people give their views on how they see Christmas and view the baby.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This sketch is meant to make the majority of the people in the audience relate to at least one of the characters above. It is meant to be very open-ended, leading into the sermon.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4

TOPIC: Christmas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 1:30-33

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Illustration

CHARACTERS:

BELIEVER: male or female, any age

CYNIC: male or female, any age

NEW DAD: male, early twenties

SEEKER: male or female, any age

PROPS: None

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General or spot

SETTING: Bare stage

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CHRISTMAS BABY *by Robyn Berdino*

Lights up.

BELIEVER: I grew up in a Christian home...Jesus has always been a part of my life and even a regular part of my vocabulary. I speak of him often, and tell people about the love and forgiveness he extends. You know, some days I really mean it...(Pause) but other days I'm not so sure. Sometimes it's just words. Knowing him for so long has created a certain complacency, and sometimes Jesus just becomes another routine part of my life. When things go wrong, sometimes I trust him, but other times I become angry. Sometimes my faith is so strong, and other times I wonder if it's even there. Christmas is always bittersweet for me. He gets a little lost in between the trees and presents. But after knowing him for so many years, shouldn't we be better friends? Why do I forget so quickly? Shouldn't I have it all down by now, and know without a doubt that he is everything that I could ever need...my provider, my strength giver, and my very best friend? Christmas should be much different for me.

CYNIC: During the holidays, or anytime during the year for that matter, I guess you would call me a little skeptical. I've always been very self-sufficient, and actually take a little pride in being able to meet the needs I have. There are ways I've found to fill that bit of loneliness that seems to periodically surface. When I need a hand to hold, I call a friend. Sometimes when I'm sad...a good bowl of ice cream can take care of that! When I'm feeling alone, I just keep myself occupied with work or activities. And if I'm mad about something, I'll just go out and spend a few bucks somewhere. I figure it's cheaper than therapy! I really don't understand why people run to churches at Christmastime. But yet, every year, for one reason or another, I find myself questioning whether I should go. Hate to admit it, but I've actually walked through those big doors a couple of years. Maybe it's just tradition, or maybe there is some deep need in there somewhere...maybe I should go have a big bowl of ice cream!

NEW DAD: Our first child was born just three weeks ago...a son. Our first Christmas together. I never knew how strong love could be. When I hold him and look into those deep blue eyes...my life somehow seems a little richer. It's hard to believe how totally dependent on us he is for everything. I want to provide the best for him, and to protect him against the stings of life. But having this child has made me realize how unprepared I am. My wife and I started attending church just recently, because they're supposed to have all the answers, right? I mean, I've never had to think about someone else the way I do now. I don't have life figured out—how am I going to teach him? I blow it all the time. I make bad decisions and second-guess so many things. I get angry when I shouldn't and, as much as I hate to admit it, I often lack wise judgment. How am I going to answer his questions someday, when I don't know how to answer them for myself? I hope, for his sake, I get things figured out soon.